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Many injuries resulted from the panic which broke out among the people, and from the frantic attempts to escape from the factories and schools. Seventeen persons were injured in one tobacco factory by the collapse of a staircase when the inmates rushed upon it to escape from the building. At the palace, it was at first feared a bomb had been exploded. Much damage was done by the force of the concussion."—*S. F. Chronicle*.

ELEMENTS OF COMET *a*, 1896, BY PROFESSOR A. O. LEUSCHNER  
AND MR. F. H. SEARES.

A cipher telegram from the Students' Observatory of the University of California, Berkeley, received February 18th, gives the following ELEMENTS OF COMET *a*, 1896 :

$$\begin{aligned} T &= \text{G. m. t., Jan. 31. 79.} \\ \omega &= 358^\circ 20' \\ \Omega &= 208^\circ 48' \\ i &= 155^\circ 43' \end{aligned} \left. \vphantom{\begin{aligned} T \\ \omega \\ \Omega \\ i \end{aligned}} \right\} 1896.0$$

$$q = 0.5874$$

These elements are based on Mt. Hamilton observations by Mr. C. D. PERRINE, on February 14th, 15th, and 16th.

The elements have some resemblance to those of Comet 1855, II. E. S. H.

LICK OBSERVATORY, February 19, 1896.

[CIRCULAR.]

Post Office and Telegraph Department (Observatory Branch),  
General Post Office, Adelaide, 22d November, 1895.

Dear Sir:—I have the pleasure of informing you that the Western Australian Government, as will be seen by the enclosed, have decided to establish an Astronomical Observatory at Perth, and Mr. W. ERNEST COOKE, M. A., the Assistant Astronomer at Adelaide, has, on my recommendation, been appointed Government Astronomer to that colony.

As the infant institution has no library, may I ask your kind assistance in supplying the new observatory with copies of your publications?

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your Obedient Servant,

CHARLES TODD,

Government Astronomer,  
Postmaster-General and Superintendent of Telegraphs.